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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Home Economics

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS

HOUSEHOLD REFRIGERATION

This study is undertaken for the purpose of finding out the actual situation with reference to refrigeration in a large number of homes throughout the United States. The results will be summarized and made available for the homemakers of the country and for other interested groups. They will also be used by the United States Bureau of Home Economics in its further study of refrigeration.

Please answer with YES or NO wherever possible; otherwise make brief statement.

Date of report.....Name.....

Rural route or street address.....

City or town.....County.....State.....

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Residence: Farm.....Town or city under 5,000.....5,000 to 10,000.....  
10,000 to 25,000..... 25,000 to 50,000..... 50,000 to 100,000.....  
over 100,000.....
2. Total annual family income (check nearest approximation): Under \$1,000.....  
\$1,000 to \$1,999..... \$2,000 to \$2,999..... \$3,000 to \$3,999..... \$4,000  
to \$4,999..... \$5,000 or over.....
3. Number of persons in household eating two or more meals at home.....  
NOTE: The term household should be interpreted here to mean not only  
members of the immediate family, but also relatives, hired help, and  
boarders who regularly eat two or more meals a day at home.
4. Type of dwelling: Separate dwelling..... double house.....  
row house..... apartment.....
5. Is house wired for electricity..... Your own plant .....  
central power station .....
6. Is house equipped with gas..... Your own plant..... Central station.....
7. Do you have a refrigerator.....If you do not have one, do you keep  
perishable foods in the cellar..... a spring box..... an "iceless"  
refrigerator..... a cabinet cooled by an air shaft..... a well.....
8. If you have a refrigerator, did you build it yourself..... or did you buy  
it..... If you purchased it, what was date of purchase.....  
Was it new or second hand.....



9. Is its present condition excellent..... good..... fair..... bad.....
10. Is it ice cooled..... or mechanically cooled.....
11. If you have an electric refrigerator, did you purchase a complete new outfit, -cabinet, motor and cooling unit..... or did you have the mechanism installed in your old cabinet.....
12. If you have a gas fired refrigerator, did you purchase a complete new outfit.....
13. Do you know nature and thickness of insulating material used in cabinet.....  
Is it sheet cork (corkboard)..... pulverized cork..... mineral wool.....  
treated wood fiber..... flax fiber .....other substances (describe).....  
How thick is it..... inches. Is there a "dead air" space..... How thick is it..... inches. How did you secure this information.....
14. Do you know volume of cabinet.....cu. ft.; of food storage space..... cu. ft.; of compartment for ice or for cooling unit.....cu. ft. How did you obtain this information.....
15. Is your refrigerator too large for your use..... too small..... just right.....

## II. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE AN ICE-COOLED REFRIGERATOR

1. Name of manufacturer of refrigerator..... Trade name of box..... Number of model or style number (frequently found on back of box)..... Does box carry "seal of approval" of any household testing bureau..... Which one.....
2. Why did you buy the particular refrigerator you did (check by a cross the factors that influenced your choice):  
  
Widely advertised..... Size adapted to space available.....  
  
Carried by a local dealer..... Best that could be found for money.....  
  
Same model owned by friends..... Other reasons (describe).....  
  
Attractive in appearance.....
3. Did you pay cash for your refrigerator..... If so, what was the total cost, including installation charges \$.....
4. Did you purchase it on the installment plan..... If so, describe the plan.  
  
Total cost, including installation charges \$..... What would total cost have been if you had paid cash \$.....
5. Actual capacity of ice chamber..... lbs. Rated capacity ..... lbs.  
Source of this information.....





6. Is it your practice to keep ice chamber full..... half full..... or do you re-ice when chamber is nearly empty.....
7. Do you keep ice in the refrigerator the year round..... If not, for how many months do you have it.....
8. Do you store your own ice..... or do you purchase it from an ice dealer.....
9. If you purchase it, what was your ice bill for the preceding 12 months \$..... Is this an estimate..... or from actual records..... Average cost per month for July, Aug., Sept., \$.....; for Jan., Feb., Mar. \$..... What do you pay for ice per 100 lbs. \$.....
10. Problems (check problems you have experienced):
  - a. Irregularity and tardiness in delivery.....
  - b. Seasonal delivery only.....
  - c. Ice supply gets too low before next delivery.....
  - d. Too high a temperature in the box.....
  - e. Ice that is not clean.....
  - f. Other problems (list).....

### III. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE AN ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR

1. Name of manufacturer of refrigerator..... Trade name of box..... Number of model or style number (frequently found on back of box)..... Does box carry "seal of approval" of any household testing bureau..... Which one.....
2. Why did you buy the particular refrigerator you did (check by a cross the factors that influenced your choice):

Widely advertised.....	Size adapted to space available.....
Carried by a local dealer.....	Best that could be found for money.....
Same model owned by friends.....	Other reasons (describe).....
Attractive in appearance.....	
3. Did you pay cash for your refrigerator..... If so, what was the total cost, including installation charges \$.....
4. Did you purchase it on the installment plan..... If so, describe the plan:

Total cost, including installation charges \$.....	What would total cost have been if you had paid cash \$.....
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5. What horsepower is motor (1/8, 1/6, 1/4, etc).....





6. Is motor installed under refrigerator..... in basement..... on top of cabinet..... at side of cabinet.....
7. Does noise of motor bother you.....
8. If current comes from central power station, what is rate per kilowatt hour for lighting \$ ..... for service \$.....
9. Does motor operate on a service meter.... If so, is it for the refrigerator only..... What is annual bill for operation \$..... Is this an estimate ..... or from actual records.....
10. If refrigerator operates on same service meter as the washing machine, electric iron, etc., what is your estimate of increase in annual bill for service since refrigerator was installed \$..... If refrigerator operates on electric light meter, what is your estimate of increase in annual bill since refrigerator was installed \$.....
11. For how many months in the year do you operate refrigerator.....
12. How often do you defrost.....
13. Problems (check those you have experienced):
  - a. Irregular current.....
  - b. Does not maintain uniform temperature.....
  - c. Gas leaks.....
  - d. Mechanism gets out of order....
  - e. Food dries out too rapidly.....
  - f. Food is too cold.....
  - g. Difficulties in:  
Oiling and operating motor.....  
Adjusting thermostat and valves.....  
Defrosting.....
  - h. Other problems (list)

#### IV. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE A GAS-FIRED REFRIGERATOR

1. Name of manufacturer of refrigerator..... Trade name of box..... Number of model or style number (frequently found on back of box)..... Does box carry "seal of approval" of any household testing bureau..... Which one.....
2. Why did you buy the particular refrigerator you did (check by a cross the factors that influenced your choice):

Widely advertised.....	Size adapted to space available.....
Carried by a local dealer.....	Best that could be found for money.....
Same model owned by friends.....	Other reasons (describe).....
Attractive in appearance.....	



3. Did you pay cash for your refrigerator..... If so, what was total cost, including installation charges \$.....

4. Did you purchase it on the installment plan..... If so, describe the plan.....

Total cost, including installation charges \$..... What would total cost have been if you had paid cash \$.....

5. If gas comes from a central station, what is gas rate per 1000 cu. ft. ....

6. Does refrigerator operate on a separate meter..... If so, what is annual bill for operation \$..... Is this an estimate..... or from actual records.....

7. If gas for refrigerator is measured on same meter as that for stove and other gas-heated equipment, what is your estimate of increase in your annual bill for gas since refrigerator was installed \$.....

8. Is a tank of still water..... or a stream of water..... used to condense vaporized gas? If a stream of water is used, is the water measured on a separate meter..... If so, what is annual cost \$.....

9. For how many months in the year do you operate refrigerator.....

10. How often do you defrost.....

11. Problems (check those you have experienced):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. Gas leaks.....                             | d. Difficulties in:<br>Defrosting..... |
| b. Does not maintain uniform temperature..... | Adjusting thermostat.....              |
|   | Securing service.....                  |
| c. Burner gets clogged.....                   | e. Other problems (list)               |

#### V. FOR ALL HOMEMAKERS WHO HAVE A REFRIGERATOR

1. What do you want from your refrigerator that you are not getting.....

2. If blanks were furnished you, would you be interested to keep temperature records of your refrigerator for the Bureau of Home Economics for a definite period of time (two to four weeks).....

